

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5 and 7 are pending in the present application, of which claims 1 and 5 are independent. Claims 1-3, 5 and 7 have been amended. Non-elected claims 4, 6, and 8-9 have been canceled. Non-elected subject matter has been removed from the pending claims and the Abstract of the Disclosure.

Claims 1-3, 5 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicant thanks the Examiner for pointing out the embarrassing "valence problem in the reactant" in claims 1-3, 5 and 7. Applicant respectfully submits that the error and its correction would be immediately apparent to one skilled in the art because the  $\alpha$ -carbon atoms (those bearing  $R^6$ ) in the formulae  $CHR^5=CHR^6-C(Y)ZR^7$  and  $CHR^5=CHR^6-C(O)OR^7$  have five bonds (two to the other double-bonded carbon, one to H, one to  $R^6$  and one to  $C(Y)ZR^7$  or  $C(O)OR^7$ ), which obviously cannot occur in an organic compound. Moreover, the substitution on the  $\alpha$ -carbon in the product is the same, with both H and  $R^6$  bound to this carbon ( $-CHR^5-CHR^6-C(Y)ZR^7$ ). A Michael addition to the  $\beta$ -carbon of a conjugated double bond is well known to result in addition of a hydrogen on the  $\alpha$ -carbon atom. Therefore, the hydrogen depicted in the product must have been derived from the addition reaction, and thus it could not have been present in the starting material, which should have been depicted as:  $CHR^5=CR^6-C(Y)ZR^7$  or  $CHR^5=CR^6-C(O)OR^7$ .

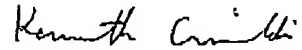
This correction is also supported by the specification, which contains several references to use of alkyl acrylate, methacrylate or crotonate esters as starting materials, for example, on page 6, first paragraph. In the alkyl acrylates,  $R^5=R^6=H$  and  $R^7=alkyl$  (p. 6, line 7), and the alkyl acrylate depicted in the scheme (starting on line 10) has the structure  $CH_2=CH-C(O)O-alkyl$ . Generalizing this structure with R groups, the general structure for the reactant would have to be  $CHR^5=CR^6-C(O)OR^7$ . Therefore, it would be clear to one skilled in the art that the hydrogen on the  $\alpha$ -carbon of the incorrect structures should be removed to produce this correct structure. Accordingly, no new matter has been added by amending the specification, claims and Abstract of the Disclosure to reflect the correct structure.

Claim 5 also was objected to for not reciting the process steps for preparing the imidazolidinethione in part (a). Applicant has amended claim 5 to include the statement from page 5, line 19 that imidazolidinethiones can be prepared "by combining a cyanide source, a sulfide salt, and at least one ketone or aldehyde." This language has also been added to the replacement Abstract of the Disclosure.

If the Examiner has any concerns regarding the application, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact Applicant's undersigned attorney

by telephone to discuss the issues.

Respectfully submitted,



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